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Title:
Statement by J. D. Corcoran

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STATEMENT BY MR. J.D. CORCORAN, A.L.P. CANDIDATE FOR MILLICENT.

11-6-68.

There were two main issues in the Millicent by-election it was claimed today by the A.L.P. candidate for Millicent, Mr. Des Corcoran. The first fundamental issue to the electors of Millicent was who they wished to represent their interests and fight their causes in the State Parliament. The second issue which was fundamental to the people of the whole State as well as to the people of Millicent was whether South Australians were to have the chance to change their Government before the year 2,000 and whether Millicent and other country industrial areas were to have their representation in the State Parliament reduced.

Mr. Corcoran said that despite the national interest which was being shown in the by-election because of its possible implications on the future of democracy in Australia, the electors of Millicent have the same basic right as is enjoyed by electors everywhere - the right to choose who is to be their representative in the State Parliament.

"It is important that the people assess my record both in Government and Opposition in the fighting for a better deal for them in such fields as Education, Social Welfare and Housing", Mr. Corcoran said. "They must consider whether they want a continuation of the vigorous representation which I believe I have given them during my six years as their Member". Mr. Corcoran said that in the field of Education, the past six years had brought remarkable developments in Millicent. "Since Labor became a Government in 1965 - a Government of which I was proud to be a Member, well in excess of \$3M. was spent on capital and maintenance works on school buildings in the Millicent electorate," Mr. Corcoran said. "In addition, in the 1967-68 financial year alone, we allocated some \$12,500 in subsidies to special projects being undertaken by school committees in the electorate."

Mr. Corcoran said that the past three years had seen more homes built in the Millicent area than in any other country town except Whyalla. He was also proud to have been actively associated with the revolutionary Social Welfare Act which the Dunstan Government had introduced in South Australia and which was the envy of all other Australian States.

"Many misleading statements have been made by the L.C.L. on the question of Electoral Reform", Mr. Corcoran said. "The truth of the matter is that the Premier, Mr. Hall, has arrogantly told the whole nation that he will refuse to compromise on this vexed question if his Party is successful in the Millicent by-election. Mr. Hall and his colleagues have repeatedly refused to explain in detail their electoral adjustment proposals and in particular to explain what their intentions are in respect of country industrial areas such as Millicent. One can only assume that Mr. Hall proposes to do what Sir Thomas Playford was unable to do in 1964 - give Millicent and Mount Gambier one member instead of two. On the other hand, the Labor Party is pledged to maintain proper representation for industrial areas in the country. Worse still, Mr. Hall, whose Party won Government with only 43% of the vote at the last election, proposes an electoral system which would enable him to hold office with significantly less than 40% of the vote. Mr. Hall and his colleagues are therefore completely opposed to the Liberal Prime Minister and the Country Party Deputy Prime Minister, both of whom only last week stated that our guarantee of freedom is the ability to elect a Government the majority wants and dismiss it when the majority says so."
